

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 JUL 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and all prior listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An agent for improving the keeping quality of food and drink, which contains a lipase-treated matter of oil and fat.

2. (Original) The agent for improving the keeping quality according to Claim 1, wherein the oil and fat is animal oil and fat or vegetable oil and fat.

3. (Original) The agent for improving the keeping quality according to Claim 2, wherein the animal oil and fat is milk fat.

4. (Original) The agent for improving the keeping quality according to Claim 2, wherein the vegetable oil and fat is coconut oil.

5. (Currently amended) The agent for improving the keeping quality according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~, which contains an acid or a culture of a lactic acid bacterium or a treated matter thereof.

6. (Currently amended) The agent for improving the keeping quality according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the food and drink is bread.

7. (Currently amended) The agent for improving the keeping quality according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the agent for improving the keeping quality is an anti-mold agent.

8. (Currently amended) A food or ~~and~~ drink comprising the agent for improving the keeping quality according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~ added thereto.

9. (Original) A method for improving the keeping quality of food and drink, which comprises adding a lipase-treated matter of oil and fat to the food and drink.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the oil and fat is animal oil and fat or vegetable oil and fat.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the animal oil and fat is milk fat.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the vegetable oil and fat is coconut oil.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 9 ~~any one of Claims 9 to 12~~, which comprises adding an acid or a culture of a lactic acid bacterium or a treated matter thereof.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 9 ~~any one of Claims 9 to 13~~, wherein the food and drink is bread.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 9 ~~any one of Claims 9 to 14~~, wherein the method for improving the keeping quality is an anti-mold method.

16. (Original) A method for producing food and drink, which comprises adding a lipase-treated matter of oil and fat to the food and drink.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein the oil and fat is animal oil and fat or vegetable oil and fat.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 17, wherein the animal oil and fat is milk fat.

19. (Original) The method according to Claim 17, wherein the vegetable oil and fat is coconut oil.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 16 ~~any one of Claims 16 to 19~~, which comprises adding an acid or a culture of a lactic acid bacterium or a treated matter thereof.

21. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 16 ~~any one of Claims 16 to 20~~, wherein the food and drink is bread.

22. (Currently amended) A food or ~~and~~ drink obtained by the method according to Claim 16 ~~any one of Claims 16 to 21~~.

23. (Original) Bread containing a lipase-treated matter of oil and fat.

24. (Original) The bread according to Claim 23, wherein the oil and fat is animal oil and fat or vegetable oil and fat.

25. (Original) The bread according to Claim 24, wherein the animal oil and fat is milk fat.

26. (Original) The bread according to Claim 24, wherein the vegetable oil and fat is coconut oil.

27. (Currently amended) The bread according to Claim 23 ~~any one of Claims 23 to 26~~ containing an acid or a culture of a lactic acid bacterium or a treated matter thereof.

28. (New) The agent for improving the keeping quality according to Claim 5, wherein the agent for improving the keeping quality is an anti-mold agent.

29. (New) The method according to Claim 13, wherein the method for improving the keeping quality is an anti-mold method.

30. (New) A food or drink obtained by the method according to Claim 20.